In the Claims:

Claim 1. (canceled)

Claim 2. (amended) The prodrug of claim [1] 19, wherein *n* is an integer from 3 to 6.

Claim 3. (amended) The prodrug of claim [1] 19, wherein *n* is 5.

Claim 4. (amended) The prodrug of claim [1] 19, wherein the polypeptide is Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met.

Claim 5. (canceled)

Claim 6. (amended) The prodrug of claim [5] 19, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 7. (canceled)

Claim 8. (withdrawn) A method for enhancing the oral availability of therapeutic polypeptides of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, wherein the method comprises the steps of chemically linking the polypeptide to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a prodrug.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 9, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 11. (withdrawn) A method for the treatment of a physiological condition through the oral administration of a therapeutically effective species comprising the steps of:

a.) chemically linking a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxy-cinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a drug; and

b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient exhibiting the physiological condition.

Claim 12. (withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) A method for the controlled release administration of a therapeutically effective polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, comprising the steps of:

a.) chemically linking a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a drug; and

b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient.

Claim 15. (withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

Claim 16. (withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 17. (amended) The prodrug of claim [1] 19, wherein the prodrug is cinnamoyl [-]Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met[-)].

Claim 18. (amended) The prodrug of claim [1] 19, wherein the carrier is cinnamoyl.

Claim 19 (new) A prodrug to be used orally in the treatment of physiological conditions comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, wherein the carrier moiety is chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the formula aa_n, where aa is an amino acid and n is an integer from 2 to 10, and the therapeutic polypeptide is linked to the carrier moiety by a non-therapeutic linker species, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is one substantially not absorbed following its oral administration.

Claim 20 (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylactyl, 3,4-methylenedioxy-cinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the formula aa_n wherein aa is an amino acid and n is an integer from 2 to 10 through a non-therapeutic linker species, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is one substantially not absorbed following its oral administration.